

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 037544

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), GT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AND THE SECRETARY

FOR AMBASSADOR MELOY FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL COME TO COSTA RICA FOR THE LUNCH, AT LEAST. HE COULD THEN FLY BACK WITH THE SECRETARY IN THE PLANE. THIS WOULD PROVIDE AN UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TWO OF THEM TO MEET AND TALK.(WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS NO SURROGATE FOR LAUGERUD IN INTELLECT OR PRESENCE.)IT WOULD, AS WELL, SAY SOMETHING PUBLICLY ABOUT OUR RESPECT FOR HIM AND FOR GUATEMALA. IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE UNIQUE PRESS COVERAGE IN THE STATES FOR GUATEMALA; THERE WILL BE OVER A DOZEN REPORTERS REPRESENTING MAJOR DAILIES AND OTHER MEDIA ON THE PLANE.

2. IN ALL EVENTS, ON ARRIVAL IN GUATEMALA ON THE

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24TH, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE SECRETARY TO GO WITH

THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY IN A U.S. HELICOPTER TO VISIT,
WITH THE MINIMUM OF AIR TIME, A SCENE OF DEVASTATION
AND AN EXAMPLE OF OUR ASSISTANCE, PERHAPS THE HOSPITAL,
RETURNING THEN TO THE AIRPORT FOR A BRIEFING AT THE
DISASTER CENTER? THE CONSIDERATION, HERE, OF COURSE,
IS DAYLIGHT TIME. INGERSOLL

SECRET

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